

1. (Amended) A method of effecting degeneration of a vegetative plant tissue of a plant, the method comprising the step of expressing in cells of the vegetative plant tissue a heterologous protein capable of binding a plant essential factor, wherein said step of expressing said heterologous protein is effected in a manner so as to lead to depletion of said essential factor such that plant viability is maintained, while at the same time, degeneration of the vegetative plant tissue is effected.